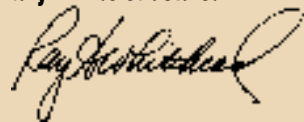


## From the Editor

JUNE marks the beginning of the nation's observance of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. In nationwide ceremonies next month, civic leaders and citizens will pay tribute and say thanks to veterans of what has been called "the forgotten war." The observances will continue until 2003, when the 50th anniversary of the signing of the armistice will be commemorated.

To help you become better informed about the Korean War, we give you a brief history of the war and the personal experiences of participants. We are also very pleased to be able to bring you a series of colorful and informative pages on the four phases of the war, provided by the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

As we look back, we also look forward. Continuing our coverage of the Army's transformation process, we give you SSG John Valceanu's article, "Transformation: Finding the Middle Ground." The article helps debunk many of the rumors and myths associated with transformation and how the Army of the 21st century will be structured.



## Important Information

YOUR February article about "Guarding Peace in Kosovo" has been very informative and extremely important for us who are not out there like them, and for the families of those soldiers.

It is always great to acknowledge and render honor to those who are serving our country well just by keeping the peace, and by taking care of others in need.

*Name withheld  
Mesquite, Texas*

## Portraits of Patriotism

YOUR March back cover, "The Americans Have Come," claims the Americans arrived in 1917 after "four long years of war." The First World War began in August 1914; thus, the announcement that the Yanks were coming came after less than three years of war, not four.  
COL Richard M. Tabor (USAR)  
Heidelberg, Germany

## Funeral Details

LAST fall I recall reading several letters complaining about the amount of money received by reserve-component soldiers for performing funeral duties. This whining bothered me, having just performed my first funeral detail (as a volunteer). These fallen soldiers are a big part of the reason we can be proud to wear the uniform and we should be proud to serve as part of their funeral details. It's a reflection of our view of Army values.

*PFC Rodney Wynn  
Florida Army National Guard*

THANKS for your input. You might especially enjoy an article about funeral details, "Final Honors," starting on page 46 of this issue.

## Issue "Pops"

JUST a note to tell you how especially remarkable I find the magazine's March issue. It "pops" from cover to cover! Layout and graphics are superb! The features on the Vision, FMTV, Bosnia and NTC provide excellent and useful command information. Heike Hasenauer has outdone herself again with her work on "Duty in Germany."

*Don Carr  
Fort Belvoir, Va.*

## Wrong Division

YOUR March "Briefings" item on page 11, "MTMC Loads Guard Unit for Bosnia," states in the last paragraph that the 29th Infantry Division will hand off to the 38th Inf. Div. of Pennsylvania. Unless there is something pending with Army division redesign that I'm not aware of, the 38th ID is headquartered in Indiana, with units in Ohio and Michigan. Pennsylvania still has the 28th.

*MSG Gaylord Taylor  
via e-mail*

## Positive Report

ON behalf of the employees of Stewart and Stevenson Tactical Vehicle System LP, I would like to personally thank you for the well-rounded article in your March issue on the FMTV. It's enlightening to see a positive side of the FMTV show up in print, considering all the negative publicity we've seen in the past. Our thanks for an excellent job.

*Mike Hauser  
via e-mail*

## Family Life

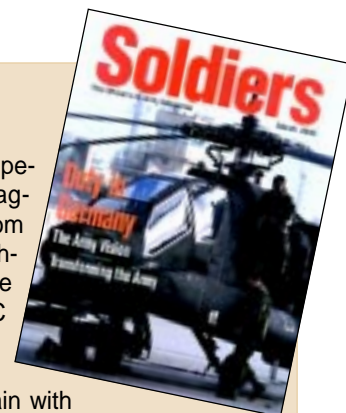
ABOUT your December cover, I commend you on the factual depiction of family life in the Army.

*SSG T.A. Foster  
via e-mail*

IN response to the February Feedback about your December cover, let me say first that I served six years on active duty and was deployed for Operation Desert Storm over Christmas 1990 while I had a 3-year-old son at home. Now a recruiter

for the Florida Army National Guard dealing with the trials and tribulations of both recruiting and retention, I believe our retention problems are partly due to us recruiters not telling enlistees the whole truth about serving their country.

I realize that Recruiting Command puts a tremendous amount of pressure on recruiters, but if we fail to tell the whole truth we are only adding to the flood of discontented soldiers departing the military. We are not going to retain quality soldiers if they don't know what



they are getting into. We owe it to them and to our own integrity to tell the complete truth. Losing an enlistment now probably means saving a retention loss later.

*SFC Erwin B. Ullery  
Florida Army National Guard  
via e-mail*

## Almanacs & Posters

FOR the past two years you have helped us with our Army Family Team Building Program by sending extra copies of **The Soldiers Almanac**. Again I would appreciate your support by sending us the same quantity of this year's almanac.

*Tammie Wommack  
Fort Campbell, Ky.*

WE would like to request 15 copies of the uniform poster from the January almanac. I am the S-1 for the Fort Benning CID Battalion; we use the posters in our battalion headquarters and subordinate offices.

*SSG Jeffery S. Boyet  
Fort Benning, Ga.*

CAN I get another two copies of the January almanac? I have a subscription to **Soldiers**, but someone took the middle (poster) out of it. Thanks.

*SSG Yvonne B. Zappa  
Little Falls, Minn.*

*Additional copies of **The Soldiers Almanac** and the poster insert have been mailed to you and to the many others who have requested them.*

## Almanac Corrections

YOUR 2000 almanac is a triumph. As a historian, I particularly appreciate your comparison of personal equipment and uniform in 1900 with what's in use today. However, you made one obvious goof on your

timeline: the surrender of the Philippines and the Bataan Death March were in 1942, not 1941.

*Jim Williams  
Associate Professor  
SUNY History Dept.  
Geneseo, N.Y.*

*THANKS for the correction. You're right: the Battle for Bataan ended April 9, 1942, with the infamous Death March following.*

## Guard & Reserve

ONCE again you've produced an outstanding reference volume with your January issue of **The Soldiers Almanac**

However, your timeline gives the impression that the National Guard did not exist prior to June 1933. True, the 1933 Congressional Act created a new Army component, called the National Guard of the United States, and allowed the Guard to be called into federal service during national emergencies. But that was not the establishing of the National Guard.

The Dick Act of 1903, named for the Ohio congress-

man who sponsored the bill, replaced the 1792 Militia Act and reaffirmed the National Guard as the Army's primary organized militia.

That same Act also created a Division of Militia Affairs within the existing War Department, the precursor to the National Guard Bureau of today. Then, the National Defense Act of 1916 guaranteed the states' militia status as the Army's primary reserve force and mandated the term "National Guard" for the force that previously was known as the militia, the citizen-soldier.

The modern-day Army National Guard traces its roots to the Massachusetts Bay Colony of 1636, predating the standing Army by 139 years.

*SGM Frank Yoakum  
Aberdeen Proving  
Ground, Md.*


THE 2000 edition of **The Soldiers Almanac** was another keeper, but I was disappointed by a glaring omission: you failed to mention the 1908 establishment of the Army Reserve, when the Medical Reserve Corps was created, in your timeline.

You also could have noted 1913: creation of the Regular Army Reserve; 1916: establishment of the Officers and Enlisted Reserve Corps and the Reserve Officers Training Corps; 1920: Congressional definition of the Army as the Regular Army, the National Guard and the Organized Reserves; 1952: renaming the Organized Reserves as the Army Reserve; or 1990: establishing the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

It was frustrating that the Army Reserve, which has played a major role in the history of the Army in the 20th century, was overlooked in what is otherwise an outstanding historical product.

*LTC Randy Pullen  
Office of the Chief, Army  
Reserve*

**Soldiers** is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: [soldiers@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:soldiers@belvoir.army.mil).

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